

Recommendation to Cabinet

28 February 2023

From the People and Health Overview Committee on 31 January 2023

Update on Children in Care Strategy and Plan

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That there be a 15% increase to the overall payment for Dorset foster carers and supported lodging carers.

Update following the publication of the Children’s Social Care Implementation Strategy:

Since writing this report the Children’s Social Care Implementation Strategy has been published. Of particular relevance to this report is the increase to fostering allowances and leaving care allowance.

In recognition of the increasing costs of living, the National Minimum Allowance (NMA) will be increased by 12.43%. This above inflation increase in allowance

will help foster parents cover the increasing costs of caring for a child in their home.

The leaving care allowance will be increased from £2,000 to £3,000 and the bursary available to care leavers undertaking apprenticeships will increase from £1000 to £3,000.

Financial Implications Update:

The National Minimum Allowance payable to Foster Carers will increase by 12.43% in 2023/24. This is estimated to cost Dorset an additional £234,146 per annum. Funding for this uplift has been provided through the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24.

Fig 5 shows the total proposed weekly payment for foster carers inclusive of 15% increase in overall payment plus the 12.43% increase to National Minimum Allowance. This table is best seen within the context of Fig 3 and Fig 4.

Age Banding for Allowances	Skills Level 1	Skills Level 2	Skills Level 3	Skills Level 4	Skills Level 5
0-4	269	315	395	579	
5-10	294	340	420	604	
11-15	349	395	475	659	820
16+	398	444	524	708	869

Fig 5. Total Proposed Weekly Payment with 15% and 12.43% increases

Appendices

Report to the People and Health Overview Committee – 31 January 2023 – Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy Update.

Extract of minutes from the People and Health Overview Committee held on 31 January 2023. They are accessible through the link in the background papers below.

Background papers

[People and Health Overview Committee – 31 January 2023.](#)

[Children’s social care stable homes built on love consultation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)